

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's amendment filed on January 26, 2010 is acknowledged and has been entered. Claims 10, 32 and 50 have been canceled. Claims 1-9, 11-31, 33-49 and 51-70 are pending. Claims 71-94 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claims 1-9, 11-31, 33-49 and 51-70 are discussed in this Office action.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Bennett Berson on February 24, 2010.

Please amend the claims as follows:

In claim 17, line 3, delete "(c)" and replace with "(d)".

In claim 39, line 3, delete "(c)" and replace with "(d)".

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-9, 11-31, 33-49 and 51-70 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's arguments in response to the final rejection, filed January 26, 2010 were persuasive. The allowability of the instant claims rests on the final step of the method of the independent claims, a step which requires that the fluid flow is periodically reversed to cause the polymeric molecule to hover in an elongated state. The closest prior art, Fuchs, teaches elongation of polymers in fluid flow, and also teaches that "the flow slows or stops leaving the polymer substantially still relative to the microchannel" (p. 12, paragraph 106). However, while slowing or stopping the fluid flow may achieve momentary hovering of the elongated polymer, Fuchs does not specifically teach or suggest that reversing the fluid flow is used to achieve a stop to the fluid flow. As Applicant argues persuasively, there is a distinction between reversing the flow and stopping the fluid flow. The prior art does not suggest or provide a specific teaching of reversing fluid flow to achieve hovering of an elongated polymeric molecule. Therefore, Applicant's method is novel and nonobvious over the art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEPHANIE K. MUMMERT whose telephone number is (571)272-8503. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571-272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Stephanie K. Mummert/
Examiner, Art Unit 1637

/GARY BENZION/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1637